

Northern Country Zone Minutes of Flying Agenda 28 April 2025



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ATTACHMENTS TO THE AGENDA

- Item 5.1 (a): Minutes Ordinary Meeting 24 February 2025
- Item 5.1 (b): Minute Flying Agenda 250330 – Change June Meeting Date
- Item 5.1 (c): Minute Extra-ordinary (MS Teams) Meeting – EO Services
- Item 5.1 (d): Minute Flying Agenda Item 250414 – Balance NCZ Funds to CGG Trust Account
- Item 5.2 (a): D Daniels Resignation & Cr Chappel Acceptance
- Item 5.2 (b): Final Transfer from NAB Account to CGG Trust
- Item 6.0: WALGA State Council Agenda 7 May 2025
- Item 8.3: WALGA President's Report May 2025
- Item 9.2: Bank Statements Feb/Mar/13 April 2025
- Item 9.3: Zone Priorities for Ministerial Briefings Spreadsheet
- Item 9.4: WALGA Band 4 Meeting Update

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1.1 Vacancy - Northern Country Zone Deputy President and State Council Representative

Since the last meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA, Ms Kirra Warr MLA was elected to the Forty Second Parliament for the electorate of Geraldton, at the general State election of 8 March 2025. Therefore, she could no longer serve as Councillor or President for the Shire of Chapman Valley or State Council Representative and Deputy President for the Northern Country Zone.

Cr Nicole Batten was elected by the Shire of Chapman Valley at their OCM on 20 March 2025 as their new President and to replace Ms Warr as their NCZ Delegate.

Elections for the positions of Zone Deputy President and State Council Representative will be held by secret ballot at the Zone meeting on Friday 20 June 2025. Nomination forms will be sent to Delegates at least thirty days prior to the elections.

1.2 Zone Delegates were requested to provide written notice on amendments to recommendations within the State Council agenda ASAP to the Zone President and Secretariat, to allow Zone members time to vote on the alternative recommendation.

1.3 The Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework

shown below, adopted 22 April 2024, will be used to guide Zone Delegates decision making.

Impact on Local Government Sector Impact on Local Government sector without intervention	High	Medium	Low
Reach Number of member Local Governments affected	Sector-wide	Significant (multiple regions, Zones, or bands)	Few
Influence Capacity to influence decision makers	High	Medium	Low
Principles Alignment to core principles such as autonomy, funding, general competence	Strong	Partial	Peripheral
Clarity Policy change needed is clear and well-defined	Clear	Partial	Unclear

Decision-maker support Level of support among decision-makers (political and administrative)	High	Medium	Low
Public support Level of support among the public or other stakeholders	High	Medium	Low
Positive consequences for WALGA Prospect of positive consequences for WALGA. E.g. enhanced standing among members or leverage for other issues.	High	Medium	Low
Negative consequences for WALGA Prospect of negative consequences for WALGA for not undertaking the advocacy effort. E.g. diminished standing among members or other stakeholders.	High	Medium	Low
Partnerships Potential for partnerships with other stakeholders	Yes (3+)	Possibly (1-2)	No (0)

2. MEMBERS

Shire of Carnamah	Cr Merle Isbister - President Cr Dwayne Woollorton - Deputy President Mr Tim Clynych - Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate
Shire of Chapman Valley	Cr Nicole Batten – President Cr Trevor Royce Mr Jamie Criddle - Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate
Shire of Coorow	Cr Guy Sims - President Cr Bruce Jack, Deputy President Ms Mia Maxfield - Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate
City of Greater Geraldton	Mayor Jerry Clune (Apology) Cr Jennifer Critch Mr Ross McKim - Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate
Shire of Irwin	Cr Isabelle Scott Cr Mark Leonard - President Mr Shane Ivers - Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate
Shire of Mingenew	Cr Gary Cosgrove - President Cr Hellene McTaggart Mr Matt Fanning - Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate
Shire of Morawa	Cr Karen Chappel - President (NCZ President) Cr Ken Stokes - Deputy President Mr Mike Cole - Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate
Shire of Northampton	Cr Liz Sudlow - President (State Council Deputy Rep) Cr Robert Horstman - Deputy President Mr Andrew Campbell - Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate

Shire of Perenjori	Cr Jude Sutherland - President Cr Leslie Hepworth - Deputy President Mr Paul Anderson - Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate
Shire of Three Springs	Cr Chris Lane - President Cr Nadine Eva – Deputy President Mr Keith Woodward, Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

4. ADJOURNED BUSINESS

Nil

5. MINUTES

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

5.1 (a) Confirmation of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting 24 February 2025

Attachment: Minutes 24 February 2025

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 24 February 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Critch

Seconded: Cr Scott

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 24 February 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

5.1 (b) Confirmation of Minutes of Flying Agenda Item 250330 – Change June 2025 Meeting Date from Monday 23 to Friday 20

Attachment: Minutes Flying Agenda Item 250330 – Change June Meeting Date

Recommendation:

That the Minute of Flying Agenda 250330 – Change June 2025 Meeting Date from Monday 23 to Friday 20, be confirmed.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Critch

Seconded: Cr Scott

That the Minute of Flying Agenda 250330 – Change June 25 Meeting Date from Monday 23 to Friday 20, be confirmed.

Carried

5.1 (c) Confirmation of Minutes of Extra-Ordinary (MS Teams) Meeting 3 April 2025 – Resignation of Executive Officer and Ongoing Provision of Executive Officer Services

Attachment: Minutes Extra-ordinary (MS Teams) Meeting 3 April 2025 – EO Services

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the extra-ordinary (MS Teams) meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 3 April 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Critch

Seconded: Cr Isbister

That the Minutes of the extra-ordinary (MS Teams) meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 3 April 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

5.1 (d) Confirmation of Minutes of Flying Agenda Item 250414 – NCZ Monies to be Held in Trust by CGG for Short Term

Attachment: Minutes Flying Agenda Item 250414 – NCZ Monies to CGG Trust Account

Recommendation:

That the Minute of Flying Agenda 250414 – Northern Country Zone Monies to be Held in Trust by City of Greater Geraldton for short term, be confirmed.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Critch

Seconded: Cr Scott

That the Minute of Flying Agenda 250414 – Northern Country Zone Monies to be Held in Trust by City of Greater Geraldton for Short Term, be confirmed.

Carried

5.2 Business Arising from Minutes

5.2 (a) Resignation of Executive Officer and Ongoing Executive Officer Services

Prepared by: Dianne Daniels

Attachment: 250329 Resignation – Dianne Daniels and Acceptance by Cr Chappel

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA:

- accepts the Resignation of Executive Officer Dianne Daniels, effective COB 28 April 2025; and
- endorses the invitation to WALGA to undertake executive services for the Friday 20 June 2025 ordinary meeting, including acting as Returning Officer for the election of a new State Council Representative and Zone Deputy President; and
- endorses the request that WALGA prepare a proposal for the ongoing provision of executive services for consideration by Delegates at the June 20 2025 meeting.

Background:

I handed in my resignation on 29 March 2025, effective 28 April 2025, as I am going back to work full-time as of 29 March 2025. This allows me time to prepare the Agenda and Minutes for the 28 April Flying Agenda meeting. Cr Chappel accepted my resignation on 31 March 2025 and organised a MS Teams meeting for Delegates, to map a path forward. That meeting resulted in the three points of the Recommendation, above.

Comments:

I wish to thank the Delegates and CEOs of the Northern Country Zone for the very rewarding position I have been lucky enough to hold since 2018. The ten-member local governments are committed to driving change for their communities – it has been a privilege to work with such a diverse but collaborative group of people. I would also like to convey my thanks to the staff at WALGA, who were always on hand to assist and give sound advice.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:**Moved:** Cr Critch**Seconded:** Cr Scott

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA:

- a. accepts the Resignation of Executive Officer Dianne Daniels, effective COB 28 April 2025; and
- b. endorses the invitation to WALGA to undertake executive services for the Friday 20 June 2025 ordinary meeting, including acting as Returning Officer for the election of a new State Council Representative and Zone Deputy President; and
- c. endorses the request that WALGA prepare a proposal for the ongoing provision of executive services for consideration by Delegates at the June 20 2025 meeting.

Carried**5.2 (b) Northern Country Zone Monies Transferred**

Prepared by: Dianne Daniels

Attachment: Final Transfer Details

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes that the \$12,580.95 balance of funds from the NAB business cheque account BSB: 086-833 Account 21-924-6179 was transferred to the City of Greater Geraldton Trust Account BSB: 066-512 Account 10515001 on 17 April 2025, as resolved by Members at Flying Agenda Item 250414.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:**Moved:** Cr Critch**Seconded:** Cr Scott

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes that the \$12,580.95 balance of funds from the NAB business cheque account BSB: 086-833 Account 21-924-6179 was transferred to the City of Greater Geraldton Trust Account BSB: 066-512 Account 10515001 on 17 April 2025, as resolved by Members at Flying Agenda Item 250414.

Carried

6. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION

Attachment: State Council Agenda 7 May 2025

The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 7 May 2025.

The recommendation and summary only have been included. Please refer to the PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail and attachments.

6.1 (SCA 8.1) Regulations for CEO KPIs and Online Registers – WALGA Submission

*Prepared by: Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services; and
Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement*

WALGA Recommendation:

That WALGA endorse the recommendations contained in the attached '*Regulations for CEO KPIs and public registers submission*'.

Executive Summary:

- Consultation is open on the draft Local Government Regulations Amendment Regulations 2024 (the Draft Regulations), which give effect to reforms relating to the publication of online registers, publication of CEO performance criteria and performance reviews, and other CEO matters.
- The Local Government legislation reform platform from the State Government indicated that one of the reform outcomes was "Reducing red tape, increasing consistency and simplicity".
- The overwhelming sector feedback is that these reforms will not achieve this aim and will instead increase red tape without any clear public benefit.
- Sector feedback has been collated and identifies overarching concerns listed in this report.
- The attached submission, informed by this feedback, is recommended for endorsement.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Critch

Seconded: Cr Scott

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 8.1.

Carried

6.2 (SCA 8.2) Dog and Cat Management Advocacy Position

*Prepared by: Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement; and
Marnie Herrington, Governance Specialist*

WALGA Recommendation:

That WALGA replace Advocacy Position 2.12 *Puppy Farming* with a revised *Dog and Cat Management* advocacy position, as follows:

In regard to the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021 and the PetsWA Centralised Database, the WA Local Government sector advocates:

- that fees reflect completed cost modelling to ensure that Local Governments achieve full cost recovery in ensuring compliance with the Dog Act 1976 or Cat Act 2011.*
- that Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and, at minimum, adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index.*
- that the PetsWA centralised registration database is developed, operated and maintained by State Government, with no loss to Local Government registration fee revenue.*
- that the function of PetsWA be restricted to the registration of dogs and cats, exclude ancillary functions such as animal related complaints and infringement notices, and integrate with existing Local Government corporate systems.*
- for the continued legislative exemptions for livestock working dogs in recognition of their special breeding requirements.*
- for a State Government-led education initiative whereby the community is encouraged to purchase puppies from approved breeders.*

Executive Summary:

- Motions from Zones regarding the PetsWA Centralised Registration Database provide an opportunity to review the existing *Puppy Farming* advocacy position and replace it with a new *Dog and Cat Management* advocacy position.
- The purpose of the new position is to reflect the progression of the *Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021* and the emerging concerns of the Local Government sector regarding the PetsWA centralised registration system.
- The Governance Policy Team endorsed the new advocacy position at its meeting on 24 March.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:**Moved:** Cr Critch**Seconded:** Cr Scott

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 8.2.

Carried**6.3 (SCA 8.3) Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Advocacy Position**

*Prepared by: Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy; and
Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure*

WALGA Recommendation:

That WALGA replace the following Advocacy Positions:

5.2.1 Environmental Protection Act

5.2.2 Land Clearing in Road Reserves

with an updated Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Advocacy Position as follows:

WALGA calls on the Western Australian Government, in consultation with Local Government, to undertake legislative and policy reform to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of the regulatory system for clearing native vegetation in Western Australia, including:

1. *Amending the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and associated regulations to remove unnecessary process, complexity and improve timeframes, including:*
 - a. *introducing statutory timeframes for the determination of referrals, permit applications and appeals*
 - b. *increasing the default duration of Area and Purpose Permits to 10 years*
 - c. *provide a permanent exemption for clearing of previously legally cleared transport corridors*
 - d. *strengthening environmental data sharing requirements to ensure proponents cannot opt-out of sharing data collected for environmental assessment and monitoring purposes.*
2. *Ensuring the regulatory system is adequately resourced to:*
 - a. *implement an expedited process for clearing permits for projects that prevent death and serious injury (road safety), and state and federally funded or co-funded projects*
 - b. *establish a dedicated Local Government unit within the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to:*
 - i. *case manage Local Government referrals and clearing permit applications*
 - ii. *provide guidance and training for Local Governments, particularly in relation to roadside vegetation management*
 - iii. *support partnerships with Local Governments in strategic environmental offsets*
 - c. *enable timely investigation and enforcement action for illegal clearing*
 - d. *increase investment in the collection and provision of statewide biodiversity data, including:*
 - i. *funding and coordinating a state-wide biodiversity survey program to standardise habitat and vegetation mapping*
 - ii. *making biodiversity data more discoverable, accessible and useable.*
3. *Undertaking bioregional planning for native vegetation management, with a focus on highly cleared areas and implementing strategic solutions for environmental offsets that can be utilised by Local Government.*
4. *Working with the Australian Government to reduce duplication between the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.*

Executive Summary:

- The effectiveness, cost and complexity of the regulatory system for native vegetation clearing has been a longstanding concern for Local Governments, particularly in relation to its impacts on the delivery of road and other infrastructure projects.
- WALGA has made numerous representations and submissions to the State Government on this issue.

- WALGA's current [advocacy positions](#) relating to the regulation of clearing of native vegetation were endorsed by State Council in 2004 (5.2.1) and 2006 (5.2.2).
- Numerous reviews and significant legislative and policy changes aimed at streamlining regulatory requirements have occurred since that time which has resulted in some improvement, however, problems persist.
- The updated Advocacy Position, seeks to respond to feedback and issues raised by the sector, calls the State Government to:
 - implement **legislative, policy and process changes**, including the imposition of statutory timeframes for assessments and appeals; increasing the duration of clearing permits; providing a permanent exemption to enable clearing in previously legally cleared transport corridors; and strengthening environmental data sharing requirements.
 - allocate **adequate resources** to implement an expedited process for road safety and state and federally funded or co-funded projects; a dedicated Local Government unit to process applications and support the sector; timely compliance and enforcement action; and implement a state-funded collection and provision of data.
 - undertake **bioregional planning** and implement **strategic solutions for environmental offsets** for Local Government.
 - **reduce duplication** between the State and Australian government regulatory systems.
- At their joint meeting on 24 March, the Environment and Infrastructure Policy Teams recommended that State Council endorse the Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations advocacy position.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Critch

Seconded: Cr Scott

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 8.3.

Carried

6.4 (SCA 8.4) Submission on the State Recovery Arrangements

Prepared by: Rachel Armstrong, Policy Manager Emergency Management

WALGA Recommendation:

That State Council endorse the submission to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services on proposed revisions to the State Recovery Arrangements.

Executive Summary:

- The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) is consulting on revised State Recovery Arrangements via [Engage WA Emergency Management](#). Formal consultation closes Friday, 2 May.
- WALGA was granted an extension to enable the draft submission to be included as an Item for Decision in the 7 May State Council Agenda.
- The revised arrangements integrate lessons from past recoveries, current best practices, and clarify roles and responsibilities.
- There are no significant changes to Local Government roles and responsibilities under the *Emergency Management Act 2005* and State Emergency Management Framework.
- The Commonwealth - State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements - Western Australia (DRFA-WA) are not part of the State Emergency Management Framework and are outside the scope of the review.
- WALGA's draft submission was shared with Local Governments and the draft final version incorporates feedback.
- WALGA's submission is generally supportive of the revised State Recovery Arrangements, which provide improved clarity on roles and responsibilities in recovery, particularly for State Government, and clearer arrangements for transitioning from response to recovery and from recovery to business as usual.
- WALGA's submission highlights the need for State Government investment in streamlined, appropriate and effective funding mechanisms for recovery and resilience building, and the need to ensure adequate support to Local Governments.
- The People and Place Policy Team noted the draft submission at its 18 March meeting.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:**Moved:** Cr Critch**Seconded:** Cr Scott

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 8.4.

Carried**6.5 (SCA 8.5) Health (Public Buildings) Regulations Consultation**

Prepared by: Coralie Claudio, Senior Policy Advisor, Planning

WALGA Recommendation:

That WALGA endorse the submission on Health (Public Buildings) Regulations Consultation to the Department of Health.

Executive Summary:

- The Department of Health (DoH) is seeking feedback on the [Consultation Paper 2025 Health \(Public Buildings\) Regulations 1992](#) (Consultation Paper), which examines whether the Regulations should be repealed without replacement.
- Repealing the Regulations is not supported by the sector, as it would impede Local Governments' ability to proactively manage and mitigate public health risks.
- Revised Regulations are supported to provide a contemporary, risk-based approach to public building management, eliminating unnecessary building construction requirements and incorporating modern compliance and enforcement tools.
- WALGA received an extension of time from DoH to allow the submission to be considered by State Council as part of the May Agenda.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:**Moved:** Cr Critch**Seconded:** Cr Scott

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 8.5.

Carried

7. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

Attachment: State Council Agenda 7 May 2025

Please refer to Items 9,10 and 11 of the 7 May 2025 State Council Agenda for details of the following Policy Team and Committee Reports, Matters for Noting and Organisation Reports for Noting.

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes State Council Agenda Items 9.0 through to 11.0 as detailed in the 7 May 2025 State Council Agenda.

7.1 (SCA 9.0) Policy Team and Committee Reports

- Item 9.1 SC Agenda - Infrastructure Policy Team Report
- Item 9.2 SC Agenda - People and Place Policy Team Report
- Item 9.3 SC Agenda - Governance Policy Team Report
- Item 9.4 SC Agenda - Environment Policy Team Report
- Item 9.5 SC Agenda - Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report

7.2 (SCA 10.0) Matters For Noting / Information

- Item 10.1 SC Agenda – 2025 State Election Outcome
- Item 10.2 SC Agenda – Draft State Public Health Plan Submission
- Item 10.3 SC Agenda – Recycling & Waste Reduction Act 2020 (RaWR Act) Review Response
- Item 10.4 SC Agenda - Planning and Building Performance Monitoring Project
- Item 10.5 SC Agenda – Large Scale Renewable Energy Update

7.3 (SCA 11.0) Organisation Reports For Noting

- Item 11.1 SC Agenda - Key Activity Reports
 - Item 11.1.1 - Advocacy Portfolio
 - Item 11.1.2 - Infrastructure Portfolio
 - Item 11.1.3 - Member Services Portfolio
 - Item 11.1.4 - Policy Portfolio
- Item 11.2 SC Agenda - President's Report
- Item 11.3 SC Agenda - CEO's Report
- Item 11.4 SC Agenda - Ex Officio Reports
 - Item 10.4.1 - City of Perth Report
 - Item 10.4.2 - LG Professionals Report

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Critch

Seconded: Cr Scott

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes State Council Agenda Items 9 through to 11 as detailed in the 7 May 2025 State Council Agenda.

Carried

8. REPORTS

8.1 Zone President's Report

Refer to the WALGA President's Report

8.2 WALGA State Council Representative's Report

Position currently vacant.

8.3 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President's Report is attached.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Critch

Seconded: Cr Scott

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the WALGA President's Report for May 2025.

Carried

9. Zone Matters for Noting/Decision

9.1 Correspondence

9.1.1 Correspondence Out

Nil

9.1.2 Correspondence In

Nil

9.2 Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 13 April 2025

Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer
Attachments: Bank Statements Feb/Mar/13Apr

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 13 April 2025.

Comments:

This is the final Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the Northern Country Zone NAB cheque account BSB: 086-833 Ac: 21-924-6179, with the balance of \$12,580.95 being transferred to the City of Greater Geraldton Trust Account BSB: 066-512 Ac 10515001 on 17 April 2025, due to the impending closure of all NAB business cheque accounts on 29 April – refer Items 5.1 (d) and 5.2 (b) of this Agenda.

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA				
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT				
NAB Account BSB: 086-833 Ac 21-924-6179				
For the period ending				
13-Apr-25				
	Date	Ref	Amount	Description
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-24		9,813.37	
Deposits			18,000.00	2024-2025 Membership Subscriptions x 10
			1.30	Interest Earned
TOTAL RECEIPTS			18,001.30	
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE			27,814.67	
Payments Made	18-07-24		-2,747.42	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 242501 - EO Services 25/04/2024 - 30/06/2024; Travel
	13-08-24		-875.00	Internet Tsf - Shire of Irwin - Inv 18436 - Reimburse Catering for 24 June 2024 NCZ Meeting
	13-08-24		-275.00	Internet Tsf - North Midlands Accounting - Inv 2025-000048 - Audit Report 23-24
	29-08-24		-2,994.06	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 242502 - EO Services 01/07/2024 - 28/08/2024; Travel
	10-12-24		-784.00	Internet Bpay - Shire of Morawa - Inv 7860 - Reimburse Catering for 26 August 2024 NCZ Meeting
	10-12-24		-2,809.30	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 242503 - EO Services 29/08/2024 - 27/11/2024; Travel
	17-01-25		-947.68	Internet BPay - Shire of Mingenew - Inv 10728 - Reimburse Catering for 25 November 2024 NCZ Meeting
	24-01-25		-176.00	Internet Tsf - Norris & Hyde IT - Inv 61183 - Domain Name Renewal 5 Years - northerncountryzone.com.au
	27-02-25		-2,860.26	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 242504 - EO Services 28/11/2024 - 26/02/2025; Travel
	11-04-25		-765.00	Internet Tsf - Shire of Northampton - Inv 23037 - Reimburse Catering for 24 February 2025 NCZ Meeting
TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE			-15,233.72	
Closing Cash Balance	13-04-25		12,580.95	

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA				
BANK RECONCILIATION SUMMARY				
For the period ending				
13-Apr-25				
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-24		9,813.37	
Deposits and Credits			18,001.30	
Cheques and Payments			-15,233.72	
Total Cleared Transactions	13-04-25		12,580.95	
Add back o/s			0.00	
Reconciled Balance			12,580.95	
Bank Statement	13-04-25		12,580.95	
Difference I&E to Bank Statement			0.00	

Northern Country Zone Resolution:**Moved:** Cr Critch**Seconded:** Cr Scott

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 13 April 2025 and notes the transfer of \$12,580.95 from NAB cheque account BSB:086-833 Ac 21-924-6179 to the City of Greater Geraldton Trust Account BSB: 066-512 Ac 10515001 on 17 April 2025.

Carried**9.3 Zone Priorities for Ministerial Briefings**

Prepared by: Dana Mason, External Affairs Manager, WALGA

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone provide the below top three to WALGA as the Zone's priorities:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Background:

Following the March election, the Cook Government has unveiled its new Cabinet, emphasising regional representation by appointing a dedicated Minister for each region. The new Cabinet structure shows that the Government intends to have a greater focus on regional WA during this term.

WALGA has written to all Ministers responsible for specific regions, inviting them to participate in upcoming meetings of their respective WALGA Zones. WALGA will also provide each Minister with a written briefing on the key issues facing their region.

To ensure these briefings are comprehensive, WALGA is seeking input from the Zones to identify the top three to five priorities they would like highlighted.

The Zones provide an important opportunity for the Government to have a direct line of communication and engagement with regional WA and ensure that local issues are considered in the broader policy agenda. WALGA will report on engagements with Ministers responsible for specific regions through the President's report at a future Zone meeting.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:**Moved:** Cr Critch**Seconded:** Cr Scott

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA provides the below top three to WALGA as the Zone's priorities:

- a. Roads
- b. Health
- c. Housing

Refer to attached spreadsheet for more detail on these subjects.

Carried**9.4 Band 4 Local Governments Meeting - Update**

Prepared by: Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

Attachment: Band 4 local Governments Meeting Update Report

Background:

Following the Band 4 roundtable meeting hosted by the Minister for Local Government, Hon Hannah Beasley, on 3 September 2024, WALGA was pleased to host a further meeting of Band 4 Local Governments to continue the discussion.

The meeting was held on 11 October at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. All 60 Band 4 Local Governments in the State were invited to attend. Overall, 72 representatives from 48 Local Governments attended the meeting.

The aim of the meeting was to identify and agree on the top issues facing Band 4 WA Local Governments, to enable the group to consider and develop potential solutions to these issues, before presenting to the Minister.

Caroline Robinson, Director of 150 Square facilitated the discussion.

Comment:

As the main outcome of the meeting, the group identified the top four strategic and operational issues facing Band 4 Local Governments (from most pressing to least pressing):

1. Housing;
2. Audit;
3. Provision of medical services; and
4. Financial Assistance Grants (timing).

WALGA has since undertaken considerable work on the above issues.

An update report on the work done to date was recently circulated to all Band 4 CEOs and Presidents and is provided as an attachment to this item.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Critch

Seconded: Cr Scott

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the Band 4 Local Governments Meeting Update Report.

Carried

9.5 Local Government (Development Assessment Panels) Regulations 2025

*Prepared by: Chris Hossen, Policy Manager, Planning and Building; and
Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement*

Background:

The State Government's 2021 updates to the Action Plan for Planning Reform included measures to improve consistency and transparency for DAP applications, including clarifying the respective role of Elected Members and officers to remove Elected Members from what were deemed to be administrative DAP functions.

These changes were not included in amendments to the Planning and Development Act 2005, but were included as part of the 2024 reforms to the Local Government Act 1995 through the insertion of a new section (s. 9.69 B) to allow for the creation of regulations that specify DAP functions that must be performed on behalf of the Local Government by the CEO or authorised officer.

On Tuesday 1 April 2025, new Local Government (Development Assessment Panels) Regulations 2025 (the Regulations) were gazetted. The Regulations come into full effect from 1 May 2025, and will apply to all Development Assessment Panel (DAP) applications lodged from that date. The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) sent an LG Alert to the sector on 2 April advising of the new regulations.

The Regulations:

- require Responsible Authority Reports (RARs) to be prepared and submitted by the CEO of a Local Government, or an employee authorised by the CEO

- CEOs of Class 1 and 2 Local Governments must authorise at least one employee
- Local Governments will still be able to engage external consultants to assist in preparing RARs
- prohibit the Council from directing the CEO, an authorised employee or a consultant in preparing the RAR or directing the CEO to engage a particular consultant
- require the CEO and authorised employees to disclose conflicts of interests in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1995, and not undertake any DAP functions in which they have a conflict of interest.

The Regulations are available on the WA Legislation website.

https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/law_s55004_currencies.html&view=asmade

Policy Implications:

WALGA Advocacy Positions 6.1 Planning Principles and Reform and 6.4 Development Assessment Panels (see Attachment A).

Comment:

Local Governments have one month to consider and implement the appropriate authorisations, and any resulting changes to systems and processes. WALGA will produce template authorisations and will host an officer information session with the relevant departments to assist Local Governments.

While Councils will be prevented from directing staff in the preparation of RARs, the administration can continue to brief Council on the content and progress of any DAP applications. There are no changes to the composition of DAPs.

WALGA will continue to oppose changes that erode Local Government autonomy and influence in the WA planning system and will continue to advocate for reforms that recognise the benefits of local decision making in planning.

WALGA is commencing a review of its Development Assessment Panel advocacy position and will consult with the sector and zones as part of that process.

Questions regarding the Regulations can be directed to the local government reform team at actreview@dlgsc.wa.gov.au or the DAP secretariat at daps@dplh.wa.gov.au.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Critch

Seconded: Cr Scott

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the local Government (Development Assessment Panels) Regulations 2025.

Carried

9.6 2025 Determination of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members

Prepared by: Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance

Background:

The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) has issued its 2025 determination in relation to Local Government Chief Executive Officer remuneration and Elected Member fees and allowances.

WALGA made a submission to SAT on behalf of the sector late last year. The submission was considered by Zones and State Council in November/December last year. WALGA's submission recommended:

1. A 4% increase to Elected Member fees and allowances and CEO remuneration bands.
2. An increase to the Regional/Isolation Allowance, and publication of clear guidance to the sector outlining how the Allowance is applied in terms of methodology, criteria and weightings.

3. The creation of a new fee category for independent audit, risk and improvement committee members without bands, with the fee set at a level which recognises the skills and knowledge required for such a role, and that the new category provide a fee for the independent chair position as well as independent member positions.

Attachment:

- [2025 Determination of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Council Members](#)

Comment:

On 4 April, SAT released its latest Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members Determination.

In summary, the 2025 Determination provides for the following:

- A 3.5% increase to CEO remuneration band ranges (plus the 0.5% additional Superannuation Guarantee).
- A 3.5% increase to the fee band ranges and some allowances for Elected Members (exclusive of superannuation where relevant).
- A reduction of the four band ranges for independent committee members to one band, with the range to be from \$0 to \$450.
- Provision for reimbursement of expenses for independent committee members has also been determined for the first time.
- A determination as to the rates for the independent chair of the audit, risk and improvement committee will be determined at a future date, to coincide with the commencement of the legislative changes.

The Tribunal have also committed to conducting a comprehensive survey of Local Governments in the latter half of 2025 to assess the:

- placement of CEOs within their band and the adequacy of the current remuneration ranges;
- placement of Elected Members within their band and the adequacy of the current fee ranges and suitability of allowances;
- effectiveness of the Regional/Isolation Allowance, Housing Allowance and motor vehicle provisions; and
- attraction and retention issues for CEOs and executives, particularly in the regions.

The Tribunal will then review the eligibility criteria to receive the Regional/Isolation Allowance, as well as the quantum and effectiveness of the Allowance.

The Determination comes into effect from 1 July 2025.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Critch

Seconded: Cr Scott

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the 2025 Determination of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members.

Carried

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

As per Item 35 of the Zone Standing Orders, a Delegate may under General Business introduce a motion relating to any item of interest to Local Government, but not otherwise.

Nil

11. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Recommendation:

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone will be held on Friday 20 June 2025 commencing at 10am, hosted by the Shire of Perenjori.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Critch

Seconded: Cr Scott

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA will be held on Friday 20 June 2025 commencing at 10am, hosted by the Shire of Perenjori.

Carried

12. MEETING CLOSURE

The Flying Agenda meeting was declared closed at 12 noon on Monday 28 April 2025.